

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Wednesday, July 26, 2006, 10AM

Regional Enterprise Tower, 23rd Floor, O'Neill Room

ATTENDEES

John Kraynik, Cranberry Twp Engineering
Doniele Andrus, Butler County Planning
Jason Previte, PennDOT District 10-0
Dave Tomaswick, PennDOT District 10-0
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0
Frank Cippel, PennDOT District 11-0
Brenda Murphy, PennDOT BHSTE
Lydia Peddicord, PennDOT BHSTE
Bob Taylor, Gannett Fleming
Frank Cavataio, PennDOT BHSTE
Scott Thompson-Graves, WR&A
Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Bill Piper, Westmoreland County
Leann Chaney, Indiana County Planning

Doug Smith, SPC
Carol Uminski, SPC
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Lou Rocchini, Maguire Group
Steve Buckley, PB
Lucinda Beattie, PDP
Kathy Stefani, PDP
Dave Kundrat, GAI
Prue Larson, SPC
Steve Palmer, Gannett Fleming
Chad Reese, WR&A
Bob Dudash, URS
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Rich Feder, Port Authority
Lynn Manion, ACTA

MEETING SUMMARY

- Following introductions, Doug Smith began the meeting with a brief recap of the previous Operations & Safety Committee meeting (5/23/06) and an update on agenda items from that meeting. - - - The contractual arrangements have been made to initiate the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) and the first meeting of the ROP work group will be at 1:00PM (7/26/06). A broad ROP stakeholder work session is also being planned for the September timeframe. SPC provided an excerpt from the 2030 long-range plan addressing regional ITS. This will be one of the building blocks for developing the ROP. - - - The CMP website is complete but official launch has been delayed until the final QA/QC check occurs. - - - SPC's GIS department has received information from District 11-0 on ITS deployments, but is still looking for information on deployments in Districts 10-0 and 12-0 in order to establish a regional GIS layer for ITS. Jason Previte (District 10-0) and Robb Dean (District 12-0) indicated that information is available and can be provided to SPC.
- Bob Taylor provided an overview of the Congested Corridor Improvement Program (CCIP), including the requirement to set aside TIP funds for the implementation of study findings. Bob presented draft findings and recommendations for the two studies currently underway: Penn Avenue / Ardmore Boulevard (S.R. 8) in Wilkinsburg and the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and Philadelphia Street (S.R. 286 and S.R. 4032) in Indiana Borough and White Township, Indiana County. The CCIP studies identify potential Immediate (< 1 year), Short-term (1-3 years), and Long-term (3+ years) improvements in these

corridors. These two corridors have some similar characteristics including the need for traffic signal upgrades and intersection improvements. The Wilksburg corridor is particularly important due to its role as a detour route for the Parkway East in the event of incidents or construction. Gannett Fleming will be finalizing the CCIP studies soon.

- SPC staff has reviewed the existing CMP network and developed a list of recommendations for consideration by the Committee in preparation for the commencement of the next 3-year data collection cycle this fall. Doug Smith provided a list of these recommendations as a handout. The recommendations include eliminating some existing corridors, adding some new corridors, combining certain corridors, and adjusting the limits and node points of other corridors. These recommendations were developed based on a review of the travel time and delay data collected in the previous 3-year data collection cycle, input from technicians that collect the field data, and suggestions from County and District Planning Partners. Committee members are asked to review the list and provide feedback to SPC.
- Doug Smith also presented a concept to create stakeholder areas for the CMP. These stakeholder areas would be a mechanism for taking the regional CMP to a local level and providing an avenue for the public and local officials to provide input into the process. CMP data could be presented to these stakeholder groups and stakeholders could help to identify causes of congestion and evaluate congestion mitigation strategies for corridors in their geographic areas. SPC will continue developing this concept.
- SPC provided a handout excerpt from the proposed rule-making in the Federal Register related to the CMP. The comment period for this proposed rule-making is currently underway and Committee members are urged to review these materials and provide comment.
- Doug Smith discussed some of the safety planning initiatives underway in PennDOT District 2-0, from recent conversations he had with the District's Pete Filo. District 2-0 has undertaken a comprehensive process by which they reviewed crash clusters and complaint log safety hot spots throughout the District, pulled crash histories for these locations, used PennDOT's Highway Video Log to obtain photos, and completed collision diagrams for each location (approximately 140 took 2 to 3 months). This information was reviewed with the planning partners in the area and the MPO/RPO added approximately 30-40 additional locations. An analysis of planned projects, issues already addressed, and other factors trimmed the overall list to 40 locations and field views were conducted of each of these locations. Information/data was provided to each of the planning partners at the field views in the form of a binder for each location. The field views helped to identify quick fixes, short-term fixes, and long-term fixes to address safety problems at each location. It took two days of field views to cover the locations in one county. District 2-0 will be scheduling field views for locations in their remaining counties in the future. - - - Doug indicated that while something on this grand a scale may not be feasible in the SPC region, District 2-0's work serves as a model for safety planning efforts in other areas of the Commonwealth.

- Lydia Peddicord from PennDOT's Bureau of Highway Safety & Traffic Engineering provided a presentation on statewide safety planning efforts and discussed planning and programming of safety projects in light of SAFETEA-LU legislation. It appears that programming of safety projects occurred differently in each of SPC's three PennDOT Districts for the 2007-2010 Draft TIP (District 10-0 selected projects for HSIP funds, District 12-0 has all HSIP funds in a line item, and District 11-0 is a hybrid of the two), but a more uniform process has been established and should be followed for future TIP cycles. This process provides a number of opportunities for MPO/RPO involvement and input into safety planning and programming.
- Doug Smith provided an overview of SPC's regional traffic signal program and indicated that this work will be performed by the Maguire Group and URS Corporation through SPC's open end agreement. Maguire and URS representatives may be contacting members of the Committee in coming weeks and months as they begin work on this project.
- Bill Piper indicated that in order to make operations and safety planning effective, there must be a commitment of funds for these types of projects. Doug Smith indicated that SPC is attempting to create a framework to do that in the long-range transportation plan and the TIP by implementing the concept of transportation investment categories. Chuck DiPietro indicated that the periodic TIP reengineering process may be another good avenue for input to ensure that funding is set aside for operations and safety.
- SPC is interested in upgrading the ITS portion of its website and would like input from Committee members on information and features that could be included on the site.
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for late November. Possible topics for discussion include an update on ROP development, draft work products from the educational outreach component of the regional traffic signal program, an update on fall CMP data collection activities, continued development of strategy components of the CMP including stakeholder areas and stakeholder outreach.